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PRISON NEEDS IN NEW YORK

"It is proposed that one-half of the convict's wages be paid to his family and the other half to the state penitentiary fund.

"There is a demand for several thousand laborers for work on the roads and bridges, for which the different counties cannot afford to pay the cost of free labor.

"The governor says few convicts will abuse the privilege and escape. The punishment for anyone violating the trust has been prescribed by a vote of the convicts, which the governor and prison board have approved." R. H. G.

The Penal Reform League.—The fourth annual meeting of the Penal Reform League was held in London on December 8, 1911. In his introductory address the chairman said that the Criminal Court of Appeal had surpassed the expectation of its authors in respect to the good work accomplished. Mis-carriages of justice had been prevented. Throughout the country had been a general improvement in the ordinary mode of trying criminals. The charges to juries were more careful and precise than before and sentences were better considered. Several resolutions were adopted at this annual meeting, as follows:

First: "That provision should be made in connection with the criminal courts for the careful examination by skilled experts of accused or convicted persons, and that those found to be mentally defective or abnormal should not be imprisoned, but should be suitably cared for in institutions provided for the purpose for as long as is advisable in their own interest and in that of the public."

Second: "That the conditions of service of prison officers require radical alteration with a view to their being treated with proper consideration and confidence."

Third: "That this meeting welcomes the project for starting a juvenile community on the lines of the George Junior Republic, New York, and pledges its support."

Fourth: Lady Constance Lytton introduced the fourth resolution, which she called a "rider," as follows: "That no scheme for a reformatory juvenile community of this character can be satisfactory unless it includes provision for girls and women as well as for boys and men, either in the form of a co-educational community for both sexes, or of two separate branches (one for males and one for females) on similar lines." R. H. G.

Prison Needs in the State of New York.—Mr. O. R. Lewis, General Secretary of the New York State Prison Association, in an interview which appeared in the *World* of November 10, comments upon the need for a State Reformatory for misdemeanants and a second institution for feeble-minded criminals:

"The principal prison needs of this state," said Mr. Lewis, "are a separate cell for each prisoner in state prisons, employment for eight hours a day for all able-bodied men in state prisons, the marketing of all prison-made products in this state to the state and its political subdivisions, such as counties and cities; the introduction and development of industries in our county penitentiaries and jails; the centralization of administration of our penitentiaries and jails under a proper department of the state; the abolition of idleness and filth in many of our jails; the development of the women's farm and the farm

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colony for vagrants and tramps; the creation of a separate institution or separate wings of an existing institution for feeble-minded criminals, not the insane criminals—and other things too numerous to mention.” R. H. G.

Prisons to Be Replaced by Penal Farms in Pennsylvania.—According to a report in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of December 18, 1911, considerable progress has been made in Philadelphia toward the fulfillment of plans which have been formulated in that state to abolish penitentiaries and to establish in their stead a large penal farm to be located somewhere in the central portion of the state. A site has been purchased near Bellefonte. It is stated that all plans to move and rebuild both the Eastern and Western penitentiaries have been halted pending the submission to the next legislature of the plans for the penal farm. The idea of doing away with the penitentiary was first suggested by Warden John Francies of the Western penitentiary. R. H. G.

Proposed Prison Reform in Tennessee.—A night in the state penitentiary convinced Governor Hooper that reforms are necessary in the state prison system. He entered the prison one night recently to observe the condition of convicts who had asked Christmas pardons, and the next day announced he would grant several conditionally.

The governor said stripes would be taken off all convicts except incorrigibles, in the spring, and that a prison school will be started when the new chaplain takes charge. Governor Hooper is urging the adoption of the indeterminate sentence, the parole sentence, and a law which will give prisoners' dependent relatives benefits from their work in prison. R. H. G.

Parole Methods.—The following is taken from the *Chicago Tribune* for January 9th:

A long-resounding whack at parole board methods in loosing criminals while serving second or third terms for serious offenses was dealt recently by United States District Judge Kenesaw M. Landis.

Prefacing his remarks by saying he would not criticize the state authorities, Judge Landis called attention to the fact that two counterfeiters on trial before him had already served two terms in the penitentiary and were then released on parole while serving other sentences for burglary. It appeared to be the serious nature of the crime twice repeated which inspired the court's sharp criticism of the return of criminals to freedom.

The men were Joseph Ellingston, alias Dalton, and Richard L. Manning, both still under parole. Judge Landis listened to the testimony regarding their arrest while at work manufacturing half dollars and to a brief recital of their previous incarcerations.

"I do not mean any possible criticism of the Illinois state authorities," he said, "but it is worthy of note that these two defendants were paroled from Joliet penitentiary while serving sentences for burglarizing private houses."

"I agree with you, judge," interrupted Ellingston.

"That each defendant," continued the court, "had a burglary record behind him; that each defendant had been convicted of the same crime twice before."

Ellingston was promptly sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., and to pay \$100 fine. Manning was sen-